

hemoglobinopathy the best chance
to grow up healthy.

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NEWBORN SCREENING

For
Your
Baby's
Health




What You Should Know
When a Second Test for
a Hemoglobinopathy
Is Needed



Newborn Screening

A small sample of your baby's blood was collected soon after birth and was sent to the DHEC laboratory for testing. This testing is called Newborn Screening. In South Carolina, newborns are tested for several genetic and chemical disorders. These disorders include Phenylketonuria (called PKU), Congenital Hypothyroidism, Galactosemia, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (called CAH), Medium Chain Acyl Co-A Dehydrogenase Deficiency (called MCADD), and Hemoglobinopathies. In some cases, a second test is needed to help your doctor decide if your baby has one of these disorders. In many cases, the second test will be normal. However, if your baby does have one of the newborn screening disorders, early treatment will give him or her the best chance to grow up healthy.




Hemoglobinopathy Disorders

Your baby's first test showed that he or she could possibly have a Hemoglobinopathy. Here's a brief description of this disorder and how it is treated.

Hemoglobinopathies are genetic disorders that affect the way that red blood cells are made. They are found in people of all backgrounds and races. The most common type of hemoglobinopathy found in people in South Carolina is Sickle Cell Disease. Sickle Cell Disease is usually found in African-Americans. Around one of every 400 African-American babies is born with Sickle Cell Disease each year.

Newborn screening allows the baby's doctor to tell if the baby probably has a hemoglobinopathy, like Sickle Cell Disease, before the baby gets sick. It is important that the doctor knows exactly what type



of hemoglobinopathy the baby has so that he or she can give the right treatment and instructions to the parents. That is why a second test is so important. Sometimes the doctor will ask that both the mother's and the father's blood be tested to help decide the type of hemoglobinopathy the baby has.

Sickle Cell Disease can cause many problems including misshaped blood cells, anemia, severe pain and high risk for infection. Babies with Sickle Cell Disease should take an antibiotic like penicillin each day to help cut down on infections. There are other medicines and treatments that are sometimes used to control Sickle Cell Disease.

Other hemoglobinopathy disorders are usually not as severe. Some do not even need treatment.

Following the doctor's instructions will give babies with a